ABSTRACT

Disclosed are a method and a corresponding kit for detecting multiple sclerosis, Creutzfeld-Jakob disease, and/or spongiform encephalopathy in mammals. The method includes the step of testing a biological sample obtained from the mammal for IgA antibodies which bind to *Acinetobacter* species. An elevated level of such IgA antibodies is indicative of multiple sclerosis, Creutzfeld-Jakob disease, and/or spongiform encephalopathy in the mammal tested. The test kit contains an antigen specific for IgA antibodies that are reactive with *Acinetobacter* species.